

COMMENDING FBISD VOLUNTEER

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Carol Scott, a Fort Bend Independent School District volunteer, for receiving the 2014 Hero for Children award.

This award recognizes volunteers who make outstanding contributions of time and effort to provide encouragement and practical knowledge in the Texas public school system. Carol Scott's commitment to children through her energetic support of FBISD makes a difference in the lives of children every day. She is leaving an invaluable mark on the individual achievement of countless students and the fabric of the Fort Bend community.

Thank you to Carol Scott for dedicating so much of your time to our Fort Bend community children. On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas; we congratulate Carol Scott for earning the 2014 Hero for Children Award.

TRIBUTE TO LANE EVANS

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my respects to one of the former members of this body, Lane Evans, who during his twenty-four years in the House of Representatives really made a difference, especially to our nation's veterans.

Lane Evans and I came to Congress together in 1983. During his more than two decades in the House, Lane was a forceful advocate for the men and women who served in our nation's armed forces. His earlier service in the Marines as a young man made him a natural champion of U.S. military personnel, and he rose to be the ranking Democrat on the House Veterans Affairs Committee. He was one of the first to recognize the serious and long-overlooked problems of Agent Orange, PTSD, and traumatic brain injury, and the impacts these conditions had on veterans and their families.

Representative BUSTOS, who today represents the area that Lane Evans served so well for so many years, and others in the Illinois Delegation, have introduced a bill to name the Veterans Clinic in Galesburg, Illinois after Lane Evans. I can think of no better tribute to a person who gave so much to America's veterans, and I am proud to join in co-sponsoring this measure.

I am proud to have served with Lane Evans and to have possessed his friendship. I extend my condolences to his family. He is deeply missed.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE REV.
JIMMIE L. MITCHELL**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my sincerest congratulations and Happy Birthday wishes to the Reverend Jimmie L. Mitchell, who celebrated her 90th birthday on Tuesday, October 7, 2014. On Sunday, October 12, 2014, family, friends, and members of Good Shepherd Deliverance Church gathered to celebrate her birthday at Receptions for You in Thomasville, Georgia.

Ollie Jimmie Lee Mitchell was born in 1924 to Mr. Jim and Mrs. Wessie Wilkerson of Thomas County, Georgia. Family and friends felt, even at that time, that Rev. Mitchell was destined to do great things for God. However, because of her mother's premature death, Rev. Mitchell had to take on adult responsibilities when she was just thirteen. She and her sister, Willie Mae Simon, helped raise their young sister and five brothers. Having overcome these difficult times together, Rev. Mitchell and Willie Mae Simon were inseparable until October 2009 when Willie Mae Simon died.

Growing up, Rev. Mitchell experienced some very difficult and abusive years that would have devastated any human being but she nevertheless maintained her strength and faith in God and He blessed her and led her to her true purpose.

At 20 years old, she married Willie Mitchell, Sr. and they settled down in Thomasville, Georgia after he was discharged from the U.S. Army. They had ten children, but one died at birth. Rev. Mitchell was known for her very conservative and strict parenting style. She trained her family to treat all people equally regardless of color or gender. She taught her children to value education, love family, live by faith, and study and work hard to achieve their dreams. Those nine children have blessed her with 24 grandchildren, 4 step-grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren, and 4 great, great-grandchildren.

When she was about 32 years old, Rev. Mitchell attended a prayer meeting at her next door neighbor's house, where she met Evangelist Mella Lawyer who led Rev. Mitchell to Christ and later became one of her dearest friends. Rev. Mitchell became a member of Saints Temple Holiness Church in Thomasville, where she actively participated in many ministries and became a missionary. Rev. Mitchell accepted her call into the ministry in 1963, becoming one of the first ordained women in Thomas County. She established Good Shepherd Deliverance Church the following year. In the fifty years since then, she planted more than seven churches throughout the state of Georgia and traveled throughout the nation to minister God's grace to all.

George Washington Carver once said, "How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong because someday in your life you will have been all of these." Rev. Mitchell has gone far in life because her everlasting faith in the Lord is vivid testimony of His greatness to all whom she encounters. A woman of determination and perseverance,

she has a special spiritual talent for getting closed doors to open. Her love and commitment to Christ is reflected in her compassionate leadership, which makes her a guiding light within the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our best wishes to an outstanding spiritual pioneer, the Reverend Jimmie L. Mitchell. She is truly a woman of faith whose heart never stops giving and whose hands never stop serving the people of her church and her community of Thomasville, Georgia.

**HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN
GLEN SPERLING, PHD**

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. John Glen Sperling, the visionary educator, entrepreneur, and University of Phoenix founder who passed away in August at the age of 93.

Sperling embraced education as the foundation for living a full life—and as a resource for overcoming poverty and creating new ladders of opportunities for fellow citizens to fulfill their potential.

Throughout his life, Sperling drew wisdom from the wellspring of his own experience. Coming of age in rural Missouri during the Great Depression, Sperling struggled with childhood illnesses, physical abuse, and learning disabilities. When he received his secondary school diploma, Sperling was still illiterate.

He decided to join the U.S. Merchant Marine, where he would finally learn to read. After the U.S. entered the Second World War, Sperling joined the U.S. Army Air Corps. His service made him eligible for the educational benefits of the G.I. Bill.

The affordable education made available through the G.I. bill unlocked previously unimaginable possibilities for Sperling. He discovered a passion for learning, receiving his Bachelor's from Reed College and earning a Master's in history from the University of California at Berkeley. He capped his studies with a Ph.D. in 18th century mercantile history from the University of Cambridge.

Education had lifted the sharecroppers' son to attend one of the most august institutions in the English-speaking world, and Sperling was determined to help other non-traditional students realize their full potential.

So began the passion for education that would become Sperling's defining legacy. As a professor at San Jose State University, Sperling made a point of working with police officers and other educators who aided teenagers with behavioral troubles—championing the value of flexible, patient, and non-judgmental teaching for students struggling to find their way forward.

Sperling knew there was an opportunity and a need for an institution dedicated to people reaching for education at all times of their lives—a place that recognized the circumstances of students already juggling the demands of work or a family.

As he wrote in his memoir, Sperling found himself a "Rebel With a Cause," working to put higher education within the grasp of working adults. In 1973, Sperling started what